(vi) Edible Oils have been exempted from the recent railway freight hike in the Railway Budget for 1991-92.

(vii) Vegetable liquid oils have been completely exempted from excise duty.

Cost of Maruti Car

*69. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti car which was designed to cost Rs. 45,000 is costing Rs. 1.50 lakh at present and whether it is a fact that 60 per cent of the domestic car market is captured by Maruti Udyog Ltd.

(b) whether it is a fact that the above car company is jacking up their prices often; if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only four companies have monopolised car manufacturing in the country; and

(d) whether applications for manufacturing passenger cars from other Indian companies have not been cleared; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The maruti-800 car was initially sold at an ex-factory price of Rs. 47,500. The price of the model which replaced this car in 1986 is now Rs. 1,50,823. Maruti cars commanded about 54 per cent market share in 1990-91 among passenger cars.

(b) The ex-factory prices of Maruti-800 cc car from 1.3.88 are indicated below:—

Date effective from	Price in Rs.
01-03-1988	73,210/-
21-05-1988	77,260/-
16-01-1989	80,000/-
01-03-1989	86,510/-
18-08-1989	92,616/-
20-03-1990	96,075/-
08-05-1990	99,984/-
22-08-1990	1,07,190/-
20-12-1990	1,11,769/-
08-04-1991	1,20,251/-
25-07-1991	1,50,823/-

(c) and (d) Currently, there are five companies which are licensed to produce passenger cars in India. Having regard to the likely demand for automobiles in the country for the next 5-10 years, there is hardly any scope for setting up of new capacities in this sector. Besides the adequacy of the capacity existing there are certain constraints and issues due to which Government do not consider it advisable either to allow setting up of new units or new foreign collaboration for cars. These constraints are as under:—

(i) High input costs;

(ii) foreign exchange constarints for import of components and raw materials; and

(iii) adherence to the new norms for vehicular emissions and safety standards.

Implications of new Industrial Policy

*70. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govrenment propose to discuss the implications of the new Industrial Policy with the Trade Unions; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Union Finance Minister had a meeting with Trade Union Leaders on 17-8-1991 in which the new Industrial Policy was discussed.

Production of Haldia and Durgapur Fertilizer Companies

*71 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of production in Haldia and Durgapur Fertilizer Companies; and

(b) whether there is any scheme for these units to start full-fledged production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN):(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There is no production in the Haldia fertilizer project which could not be commissioned mainly due to repeated failure of equipment.

The Durgapur fertilizer plant is in production, and produced 75,650 tonnes of urea in 1990-91, which amounted to only 22.9 per cent of rated capacity.

(b) The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) has proposed setting up of a DAP plant at Haldia which is under the consideration of the Government.

For the Durgapur unit, there is a proposal from HFC to revamp this unit on a limited scale to extend the life of the plant and to increase its capacity utilisation.

Fake Fertilizer Firms

*72. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently unearthed the existence of fake fertilizer firms which have been paid crores of rupees as subsidy without manufacturing fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their locations;

(c) since when these fake firms are in existence and the amount paid to each of these firms as subsidy, so far; and

(d) whether Government have completed their enquiry in the matter, if so, the details thereof; and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.